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FASHION WEEK: JASON WU IS ON FIRE {page 19}

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PHILADELPHIA
Thursday, February 7, 2013

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

PUSHED OUT

Local business owners say large corporations and rising rents are forcing them off of Rittenhouse Row ◗ Joan Shepp will soon be next to leave {page 02}

▶ Ellen Shepp, daughter and business parter of iconic boutique owner Joan Shepp, did not disclose the store's new location.

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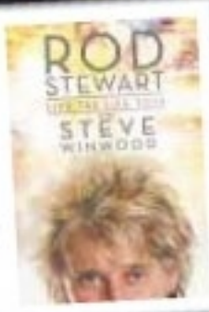

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LOCATIONS IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY & PHILADELPHIA

1

In the news

$2.1B

In Pennsylvania, $2.1 billion in revenue was lost last year to companies that exploit loopholes to stash money in offshore tax havens, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts study released yesterday. That's enough to pay the salaries of 34,562 additional schoolteachers, to chop off 20 percent from the state sales tax with no revenue loss or to cover the annual cost of state police, public health departments and libraries – combined. Three of the biggest local offenders were Pennsylvania-based corporations Comcast, Wells Fargo and the now-defunct GMAC, which in 2007 cost the state $104 million in tax revenue and together have 10 subsidiaries located in offshore tax havens. METRO/AW

In the news

Video dispels claims made against SEPTA

PHILADELPHIA. The district attorney's office has charged two people with insurance fraud and attempted theft by deception for allegedly faking injuries following a SEPTA bus crash two years ago.

Prosecutors said Ashantai Pate, 25, and Timothy Burton, 46, were passengers on the Route 12 bus when a passing truck broke its driver-side mirror. Fire rescue did not respond, and no one claimed injuries at the time.

But officials said Pate and Barton later filed claims against both SEPTA and the other vehicle for the incident and sought treatment at the same medical center for back and neck injuries.

Pate presented SEPTA with medical bills totaling more than $5,000, while Barton, who was treated 39 times between February and July 2011, presented bills of more than $6,000.

Officials said a review of surveillance footage showed that Pate and Barton were undisturbed by the accident and continued their discussion without disruption. They were arrested and are due in court on Feb. 12. METRO

Gas leak suspends SEPTA service

PHILADELPHIA. SEPTA suspended service for more than three hours to parts of its Broad Street Line, and more than an hour for its Broad Ridge Spur and three Regional Rail lines yesterday due to a gas leak near the Fernrock Transportation Center in North Philadelphia.

Area residents and Fernrock Station employees were evacuated around 9 a.m. METRO

Corporate takeover of Rittenhouse Row?

Joan Shepp boutique to move from Walnut Street Owners say they are being forced out

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Ellen Shepp discusses the situation at the Joan Shepp boutique yesterday.

The iconic locally owned boutique Joan Shepp will in September shut the doors of its Walnut Street location after 13 years in operation.

"It wasn't our decision," Shepp's daughter and business partner Ellen said yesterday.

She said a new owner purchased the 1616 Walnut St. building, which encompasses two retail stores that he plans to consolidate into one larger, multi-story outlet.

"They're looking for a corporate tenant," Shepp said.

She said her business isn't the only one on the trendy shopping strip dealing with a shift toward chain retailers, pointing to the relocation last summer of high-end independent clothier Knit Wit from the 1700 block of Walnut Street.

"We're going through this influx where owners of the buildings are, at minimum, tripling the rents — most of them are more," Shepp said. "Independent stores can't afford those kind of rents, so when everybody's lease ends, they have to move. Owners of buildings are looking for corporate tenants who can pay what they want, and unfortunately it's turning into a mall atmosphere."

Alex Wigglesworth
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A farewell to charms

Shepp said she's worried that the ambiance of the strip will suffer. "The charm that was on this street and the homeyness and that small-town feel is now big signs, bright lights – that's what bigger stores have," she said.

"I think the owners of these buildings see such potential in making more money, and I think it pins money against the aesthetic of the street or whatever neighborhood this is happening to," she said.

"And money, unfortunately, is always going to win."

A silver lining

Michelle Shannon, Center City District vice president of marketing, said there's a silver lining in the turnover.

"The good thing about all of this is that Walnut Street now is not the only great retail location in the city," she said. "The side streets like 18th and 19th and 16th are starting to fill in with local boutiques, as is Chestnut Street west, so I feel like it is really helping spread the wealth."

She said the rent rise is a product of natural market forces, as upscale national retailers continue to relocate there. "I really do think there's room for everyone," she said.

"I think that when a tourist comes to Center City, they want to go to a national or international retailer that they know and shop there. Particularly the international tourists want that high-end luxury national tenant."

Unique place

"But what makes Philadelphia different is, unlike some other cities, we also have a very, very strong local boutique scene," Shannon said. "That makes us not cookie-cutter."

Next hot spot?

Corie Moskow of Center City District offshoot Rittenhouse Row called Joan Shepp "a crucial part" of the area's retail landscape. "We hope that she'll stay within ... Rittenhouse Row, and we hope the shoppers will stay with us," she said.

Shepp said she has no plans to leave the area and is currently preparing for a new store opening. Though she couldn't yet disclose its location, she said, "It's only a hop, skip and a jump away."

"Joan and Ellen are Center City treasures," said Michelle Shannon of the Center City District. "We don't want them to go anywhere but Center City – that's where they belong. And I believe that they will find something that is still in the Rittenhouse Square area that will be suitable."

Shepp said a number of retail stretches are heating up in the wake of Walnut Street's corporate takeover. "I'll let you know where the next hot spot is when we open," she said.

"The trend is looking at Chestnut Street west now, where Knit Wit just relocated from Walnut Street," Shannon said.

Quoted

"I think the good thing about this for us as a city is that we have an abundance of riches here and now they're starting to infill in other areas that weren't once as upscale."

SHANNON

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**Based on a Nutrisystem survey of customers who have been on program two or more months, October 2012.

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Fact-finding team reviews election

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ A fact-finding team began its mission yesterday to identify irregularities in the city's voting system.

Samantha Monroe's name couldn't be found in any polling books on Election Day. She was a registered voter, but her name wasn't listed. She settled and signed a provisional ballot. When she followed up, she was told her ballot couldn't be found. She was told it wasn't counted and had been thrown away.

"So, my vote was tossed in the trash," Monroe said yesterday at the Election Day Fact Finding Team's first public hearing. The team's goal is to identify irregularities in the city's voting system and report back to the mayor.

The hearing came one day after the Pew Charitable Trust released a report ranking all 50 states' Election Day performance for the 2008 and 2010 elections.

While Pennsylvania fell into the middle of the pack for 2008, the latest presidential election for which information is available, it had the highest number of rejected voter-registration applications in the country at 36.9 percent. David Becker, director of Pew Center on the States, said the research is substantial.

"It's certainly worthy of investigation," he said. "It was definitely one of the things that stood out in Pennsylvania's rankings. It's one of the things that brings them down ... that they have such high registrations rejected."

More than 27,000 Philadelphians who were properly registered were forced to vote by provisional ballot in the 2012 election. In 2008, 12,634 provisional ballots were cast, which represents a 114-percent increase between 2008 and 2012. Pew noted that 40,000 fewer Philadelphians voted in 2012 than in 2008.

Richard Negrin, head of the city's fact-finding team, said yesterday that the team would challenge Philadelphia's voting infrastructure.

By the numbers

A report released this week by the Pew Charitable Trust ranked all 50 states' Election Day performance for the 2008 elections. Here's how Pennsylvania fared:

64.2%
Voter turnout in 2008

36.9%
Registrations rejected in 2008

94.4%
Data completeness in 2008

Tommy Rowan
letters@metro.us

Phillies. Keep on truckin'

▶ Baseball will be here before you know it, Phillies fans.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Spring is in the air! Phillies ready for Florida

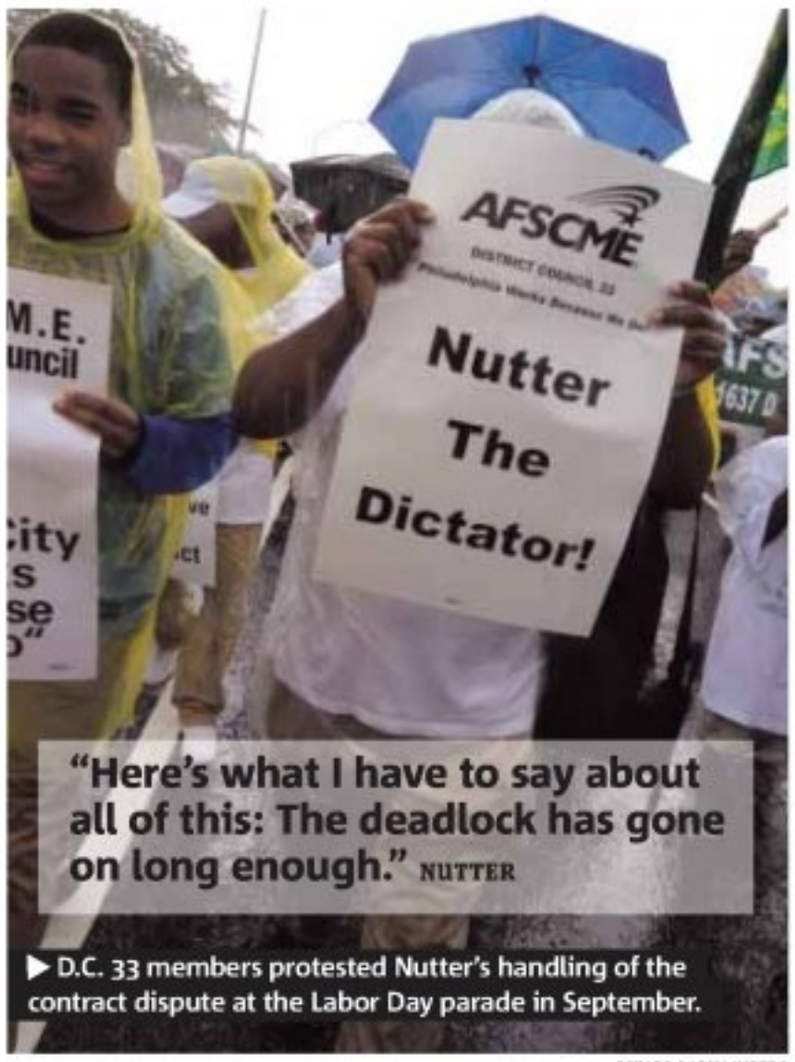
Phillies employees packed up a 53-foot equipment truck yesterday in preparation for spring training in Clearwater, Fla. Among the more notable items were 1,200 bats, 15 cases of gum, 2,400 baseballs and 10,000 12-ounce cups. Pitchers and catchers report Feb. 12, with single-game tickets going on sale on Feb. 13. METRO

Nutter fights ongoing union war as petition goes to judge

The city on Monday filed a petition requesting the state Supreme Court to immediately take over the case deciding whether Mayor Michael Nutter can impose contract terms he calls a "final offer" on municipal blue-collar union AFSCME D.C. 33.

The city filed a similar petition Friday in common pleas court, but Nutter said in a statement that he's "certain that any decision there will ultimately be appealed to the state Supreme Court," so he wants to speed up the process.

"Since this matter is of such pressing public consequence to city employees and taxpayers locally, as well as public employers throughout the Commonwealth, we are asking the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in today's filing to assume jurisdiction immediately over this matter," he said on Monday.



"Here's what I have to say about all of this: The deadlock has gone on long enough." NUTTER

▶ D.C. 33 members protested Nutter's handling of the contract dispute at the Labor Day parade in September.

RICARD LARMA/METRO

Stalemate

Unlike uniformed city unions workers, non-uniformed unionized employees can strike, but cities in the past have obtained court injunctions to stop them.

At the same time, a 1990s state Supreme Court ruling set a legal precedent dictating that municipal employers can't unilaterally impose contract terms on workers. Nutter is now seeking to overturn that precedent, which would have far-reaching implications for municipal contract negotiations in the future.

But union members decried what they say is an overreach of power and stood firm that they won't yield any more concessions in the contract battle, which has now been ongoing since 2009.

In a press conference on Friday, Nutter said he presented his proposed "final offer" to D.C. 33 officials on Jan. 16 and gave them two weeks to accept.

"It was a very good offer — pay raises for public employees and pension reform for taxpayers and more," he said.

At issue is the power for the city to furlough workers for up to three weeks each year, reduce pensions for new hires and change the way overtime is calculated.

Alex Wigglesworth
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News in brief

Is Allen Iverson homeless?

A few days after losing his kids, Allen Iverson has reportedly lost his Atlanta mansion.

According to TMZ, Iverson defaulted on a $1.2 million mortgage and sent the home into foreclosure. Yesterday, Iverson's bank purchased the mansion for $2.5 million.

Iverson, who is pursuing a job offer as a consultant in the Sixers' organization, has a history with bad mortgages. He let a Colorado mansion go into foreclosure in March 2011.

METRO/MG

Iverson

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Overweight baby boomers

Study finds baby boomers less healthy than parents' generation

Baby boomers have more chronic illness and disability than their parents, as their sedentary habits and expanding girth offset the modern medicine that enables them to live longer, a study said.

Baby boomers, the 78 million Americans born from 1946 through 1964, engage in less physical activity, are more overweight and have higher rates of hypertension and high cholesterol, according to a study released yesterday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

BLOOMBERG

Report: US set up secret drone base in Saudi Arabia

The United States is operating a secret base out of Saudi Arabia and used it to launch a CIA drone strike in 2011 that killed U.S.-born al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki, according to a media report.

The Washington Post, in a report yesterday, said the Middle East base was set up two years ago as part of U.S. officials' effort to ramp up its search for members of the militant group.

Representatives for the CIA declined to comment on the report.

REUTERS

Christie slams doctor who said he could die in office

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie called a former White House doctor who said he was dangerously overweight a "hack" and said she should "shut up" unless she examines him.

Christie was responding to a CNN report that Connie Mariano, who worked for former President Bill Clinton, said she was worried that the governor may have a heart attack or stroke. "I'm worried about this man dying in office," she said in the interview.

"You don't have to be a doctor to see that he is obese," Mariano said yesterday by telephone from her office, the Center for Executive Medicine in Scottsdale, Ariz. "I'm not a hack. If you look up my résumé, I've been in the White House for nine years. I'm a retired Navy rear admiral. I'm board-certified in internal medicine."

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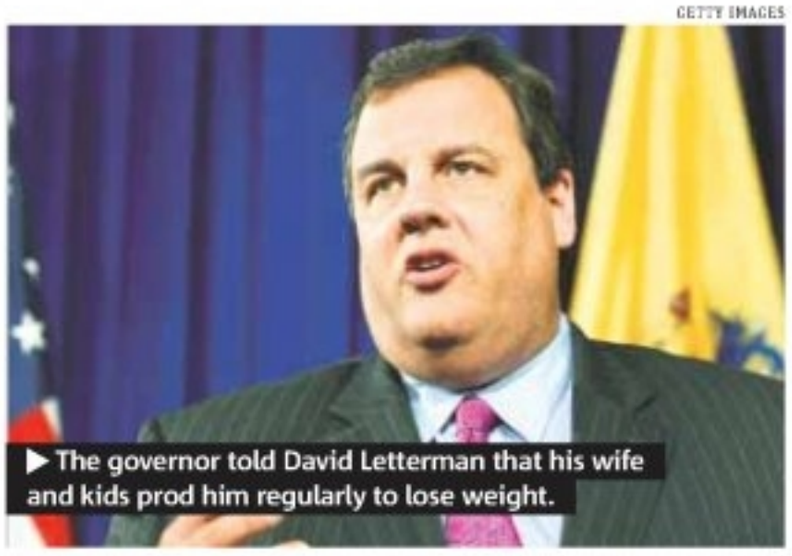

▶ The governor told David Letterman that his wife and kids prod him regularly to lose weight.

Chris Christie, on dieting

"Every week, every month, every year, there's a plan. ... Sometimes periods of great success are followed by periods of great failure."

"I find it fascinating that a doctor in Arizona — who's never met me, never examined me, never reviewed my medical history or records and knows nothing about my family history — could make a diagnosis from 2,400 miles away," Christie said in Sea Girt.

REUTERS

Donut joke

Christie has said his weight doesn't slow him and shouldn't bar him from seeking the presidency.

During a Feb. 4 appearance on CBS's "Late Show with David Letterman," the governor said that his cholesterol and blood-sugar levels were both within normal ranges during a physical exam ahead of his 50th birthday in September.

"I'm basically the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen in your life," he told the late-night comedian, who replied that he should make it the slogan for his reelection campaign.

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RBS fined $600M for rate rigging

Britain's Royal Bank of Scotland was fined $612 million as regulators punished a third bank and warned of more to come in a global investigation into the rigging of benchmark interest rates.

RBS said yesterday it was cutting bonuses to help pay for the fine, in a bid to avoid a public backlash. The bank fears the scandal will embolden critics who want it to further shrink its profitable investment bank and focus on basic lending at home. "What happened at RBS and other banks is totally unacceptable," Britain's Finance Minister George Osborne told reporters. **REUTERS**

82%

RBS is mostly owned by the state after its 2008 bailout.

24

THE DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

Inauguration flag — made in Belgium?

When President Barack Obama was sworn in for his second term on Jan. 21, it's a decent bet that at least one of the flags fluttering behind him was made in Belgium. The Waelkens flag company, based in the small town of Oostrozebeke in Flanders, supplies around 2,000 flags a year to the United States, with clients including the Pentagon and other departments as well as the U.N. **REUTERS**

Boy Scouts delay vote on gay ban

The Boy Scouts of America yesterday delayed until May a vote on whether to end a controversial ban on gay members, drawing praise and rebukes from the two sides of a heated debate that has drawn in politicians as well as parents. Board members for the youth organization, which turns 103 tomorrow, had been expected to vote on the matter at a meeting yesterday. The Boy Scouts upheld the ban just last year amid sharp criticism from gay-rights groups.

▶ Is the BSA ban on gay members also cast in stone?

The national executive board has been meeting privately since Monday at a hotel in Irving, Texas. **REUTERS**

Search for bombs at Ala. siege site

Bomb technicians searched for explosive devices yesterday after two were found at the rural Alabama property where a man, who had held a young boy hostage in an underground bunker for nearly a week, was killed in a firefight with authorities Monday.

Investigators dismantled two explosive devices that were found two days ago at the scene near Midland City in southeast Alabama, the FBI said. One device was inside the bunker where Jimmy Lee Dykes, 65, had holed up for nearly a week with a 5-year-old boy he had randomly snatched off a school bus after killing the driver.

The second device was in a plastic pipe Dykes had asked negotiators to use to communicate with him during the standoff. **REUTERS**

Saturday mail deliveries to end

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night ... but Saturdays are a problem.

The Postal Service plans to drop Saturday delivery of first-class mail by August in its latest effort to cut costs after losing nearly $16 billion last fiscal year, the cash-strapped mail agency said yesterday.

The plan would save about $2 billion a year, the Postal Service said. The mail agency will still deliver packages six days a week and will not change post-office operating hours.

The Postal Service has been losing billions of dollars each year as it grapples with massive payments for future retiree health benefits and as Americans increasingly rely on online communications that drive down mail volumes.

The agency has been seeking congressional approval to get relief from those prepayments and for a larger restructuring to reduce costs. **REUTERS**

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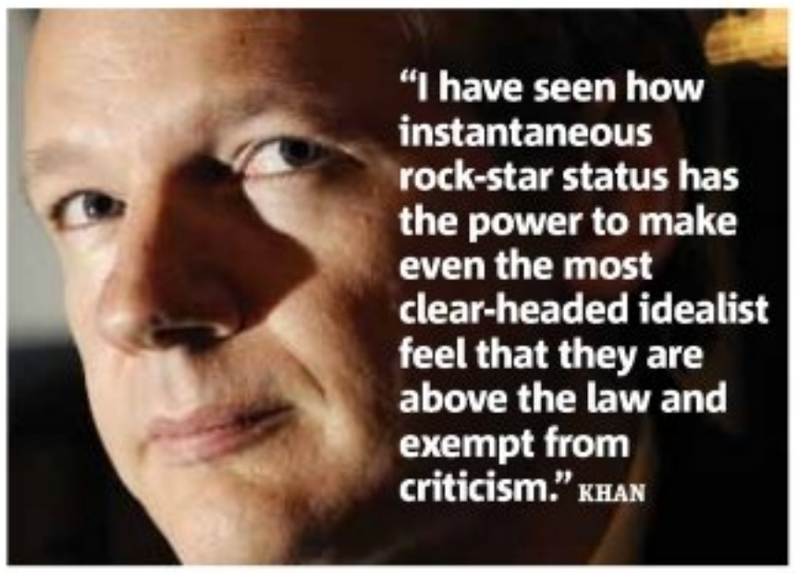
ONLINE NEW YORK ITALY

Assange demands 'blinkered, cultish devotion,' says former celebrity WikiLeaks backer

Jemima Khan, a celebrity backer of Julian Assange who put up bail money for him, has gone public with her frustrations about the WikiLeaks founder, saying he demands "blinkered, cultish devotion" and should face justice in Sweden.

An article by Khan published yesterday on the website of British magazine The New Statesman gives an insight into how Assange, whose whistleblowing website angered Washington by releasing thousands of U.S. diplomatic cables in 2010, has alienated some of his staunchest allies.

Assange was arrested in Britain in December 2010 on an extradition warrant from Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over allegations of rape.


"I have seen how instantaneous rock-star status has the power to make even the most clear-headed idealist feel that they are above the law and exempt from criticism." KHAN

After losing a protracted legal battle to avoid extradition, which went all the way to Britain's Supreme Court, Assange jumped bail and sought refuge in the Ecuadorean embassy in London last June. He has been inside the building ever since.

Khan, who first rose to prominence as an heiress but is now a campaigner and an associate editor of The New Statesman, described in her article how she had gone from "admiration to demoralization" on the subject of WikiLeaks.

"The problem is that WikiLeaks — whose mission statement was 'to produce ... a more just society ... based upon truth' — has been guilty of the same obfuscation and misinformation as those it sought to expose, while its supporters are expected to follow, unquestioningly, in blinkered, cultish devotion," she wrote. REUTERS

'We Steal Secrets'

Khan was executive producer of a documentary

film about WikiLeaks entitled "We Steal Secrets" which recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in the United States.

In the news

GETTY IMAGES

German labor office sends teen to work as brothel waitress

BERLIN. A German teenager looking for a job was told to report for duty in a brothel by the local labor office, the Augsburger Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper reported yesterday.

The 19-year-old woman said she was horrified when she opened a job placement letter from the German Labor Office in Augsburg on Saturday informing her that it had lined up a waitressing job for her at the Augsburg Colosseum brothel.

"I was looking for a decent housekeeping job — not working at a brothel bar," the young woman told the newspaper.

Prostitution is legal in Germany. REUTERS

Assassination sparks Tunisia street riots

TUNIS. The killing of an outspoken critic of Tunisia's Islamist-led government yesterday sparked street protests by thousands who fear religious radicals are stifling freedoms won two years ago in the first of the Arab Spring uprisings.

Chokri Belaid was shot at close range as he left for work by a gunmen who fled on the back of a motorcycle; crowds poured on to the streets of Tunis and other cities, attacking offices of the main ruling party Ennahda, and by the end of the day the Islamist prime minister promised a national unity government. REUTERS

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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The ugly Beyonce photo controversy

On Monday, Buzzfeed published "The 33 Fiercest Moments From **Beyonce**'s Halftime Show" which, as the title entails, included photos of Bey looking like the warrior princess she is. The problem? Apparently Beyonce and her team found some of the pictures unflattering and e-mailed the site to have them take them down as God forbid Beyonce ever looks unattractive. The e-mail from her publicist read, "Thanks for taking my call. As discussed, there are some unflattering photos on your current feed that we are respectfully asking you to change. I am certain that you will be able to find some better photos."

The Word is reprinting some of the photos here. As you can see, they aren't the best — but how in the world could a few bad shots of Beyonce ruin her stature as an icon? They are merely drops in the ocean of Beyonce imagery that saturate our day-to-day lives. Faces make faces, especially when you're performing as hard as she did on Sunday night. If anything, it's nice to know that she's actually a human and not some leather-clad robot created by the Knowles family to make all women feel terrible about themselves.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Beyonce's face makes faces. Get over it.

The feed ...

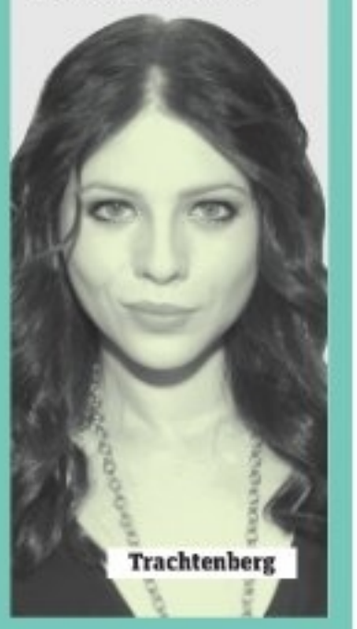
▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Carrie Underwood wants some common courtesy in the air, Michelle Trachtenberg watches a lot of TV and Edward Burns is nursing himself back to health.

@carrieunderwood
A note to fellow air travelers: if you must talk SO loud, PLEASE keep the cursing to a minimum. We can't get away from you.

@RealMichelleT
Rules of Law & Order: if someone says, "There was this one guy.....". It's ALWAYS that guy.

@edward_burns
Feeling better. Flu subsiding. Getting back into bed with Scorsese. Taxi Driver this afternoon. Departed up next.

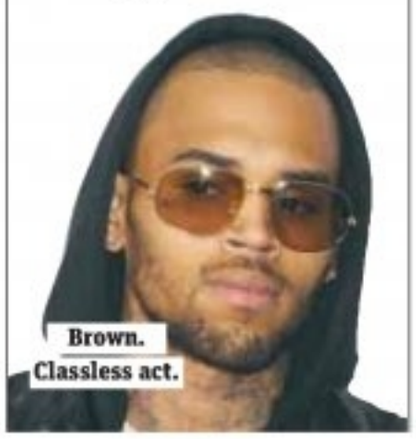


Trachtenberg

Talking points

Brown to redo community service

Chris Brown may have to start his community service all over again now that a Los Angeles District Attorney is alleging the singer failed to provide "credible, competent or verifiable evidence" that he fulfilled his obligation, according to the Los Angeles Times. Brown was given 180 days of community service as part of his sentence for assaulting Rihanna in 2009, and he was granted permission to complete it in his home state of Virginia. But now **D.A. Mary Murray** claims there are "significant discrepancies" in the reports about his service, which she says are "at best sloppy documentation and at worst fraudulent reporting." Brown's lawyer, **Mark Geragos**, is promising to fight back, though. "Apparently the district attorney's office has completely lost their minds," he tells the newspaper.



Brown. Classless act.

Spears heads to Las Vegas

Her engagement may be off and her time on "The X Factor" may be over, but **Britney Spears** still has something to look forward to: The singer is reportedly close to finalizing a deal to perform a series of concerts at a Las Vegas hotel, according to E! News. "We are in deep negotiations and I'd be shocked if it didn't happen," Spears' manager, **Larry Rudolph**, says.

Fieri kicked out of Super Bowl party

Celebrity chef **Guy Fieri** didn't have such a great time when he hit Louisiana for the Super Bowl. When Fieri was reportedly denied access to the VIP area at a pre-Bowl bash at Second Line Studio, "he threw a fit and was kicked out," a source tells Us Weekly. "He caused a total scene. He didn't have the right bracelet, and nobody in New Orleans knows who anyone is."

Brand won't sink to that level over ex-Perry

This column is full of celebrities trash-talking one another (have I mentioned yet how much I loathe the feud between **Brandi Glanville** and **LeAnn Rimes**? I feel like I need to talk to a therapist just from reading Glanville's Twitter feed. They are both so awful). So it's refreshing to report to you one celebrity who won't go in the gutter — and he's a former heroin addict. Go figure. During a recent visit to **Howard Stern**'s radio show, **Russell Brand** got the chance to criticize ex-wife **Katy Perry** for dating **John Mayer**, but he didn't take it. "Doesn't she know that he's a worse womanizer than you?" Stern asked, to which Brand joked, "Worse or better, depending on how you view it." But Stern's prodding didn't producer any naysaying. "So help me God, Howard Stern, I will not compromise my ex-wife's vagina for the sake of ratings," Brand declared. "That woman was perfect from top to bottom." As for Brand's own love life, "I'm not dating anybody. Actually, I'd like a romance," he says. "Not so much playing the field, just going through life, meditating, doing yoga, concentrating on this TV show and trying to find a nice wife."

▶ Brand. Class act.

It's 2006 again

1: Ladies and gentlemen, we present to you a reunited **Fall Out Boy**. **Pete Wentz** (sans guyliner) and co. resurfaced at Elvis Duran and the Morning Show in NYC yesterday.

3: Josh Duhamel and wife **Fergie** struck a happy pose at the after-party for the premiere of his new film, "Safe Haven," Tuesday in Hollywood.

4: Ginnifer Goodwin sung the praises of Listerine at an event for the brand Tuesday in NYC.

5: Our favorite motion capture actor **Andy Serkis** popped up at the Visual Effects Society Awards Tuesday in Beverly Hills.

6: Here's **Al Gore** doing his best seated "Gangnam Style" dance — er, discussing his new book "The Future" — at The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library And Museum in Boston yesterday.

1: ROBIN MARCHANT/GETTY
2: MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY
3: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY
4: JERRITT CLARK/GETTY
5: IMEH AKPANUDOSEN/GETTY
6: PAUL MAROTTA/GETTY

2 Vanessa Hudgens was a vision in black at the launch of the new Johnvarvatos.com Tuesday in NYC.

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10 REASONS TO CINEPLEX IT

Must-see

▶ Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy star in "Identity Thief."

1 'Identity Thief' Jason Bateman stars as a straight-laced businessman determined to take his identity back from a con artist, played by the always-funny Melissa McCarthy.

2 'Side Effects' Rooney Mara plays a deeply disturbed woman who has trouble coping with the release of her husband from prison in this suspenseful crime drama film.

3 'Warm Bodies' Nicholas Hoult and Teresa Palmer make for an unusual pair in this new-age zombie love story.

4 'Bullet to the Head' This action film takes you on a mental roller-coaster ride through the tough streets of New Orleans where Sylvester Stallone and Sung Kang seek to wreak revenge.

5 'Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters' She is best known for saying things like "It was fated by the gods" in "Prince of Persia" and "Clash of the Titans." He is best known for busting heads open in "The Bourne Legacy" and "The Avengers." Together, Gemma Arterton and Jeremy Renner are the bounty-hunting, witch-slaying sibling team.

6 'Parker' Whoa, Jason Statham as a badass action hero? What a change of pace!

7 'Movie 43' The Farrelly brothers helm this multi-director, star-studded comedy made up of many vignettes and tied together with the quest of three teenagers to find the most taboo movie ever made.

8 'The Last Stand' Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on the leader of a drug cartel with the help of his amateur partners.

9 'Mama' Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau star as parents who help their young nieces adjust to normal life after spending years abandoned in the forest.

10 'Broken City' Academy Award nominees Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe share an interesting relationship as determined cop and corrupt city mayor in this action-drama. METRO

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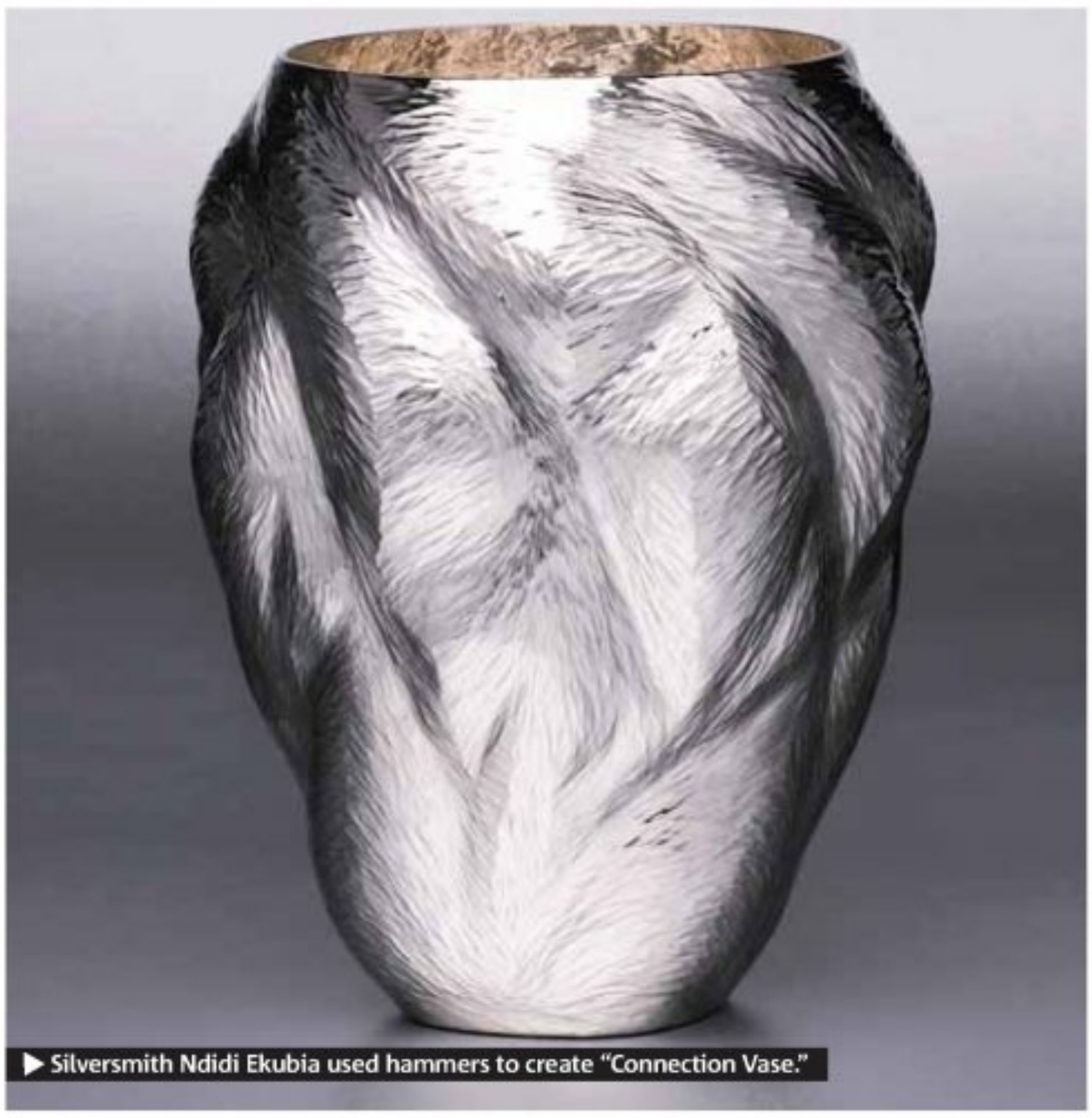
Artists test their creativity in new exhibit

How 'The Tool at Hand,' a new exhibition at the Art Alliance, blossomed from an unusual experiment Sixteen artists had to create one piece of art from a single tool The result



Silversmith Ndidi Ekubia used hammers to create "Connection Vase."

Artists have an infinite array of tools in their arsenal — but what if that wasn't the case? That's the question posed by "The Tool at Hand," an exhibition at the Philadelphia Art Alliance that challenged 16 British and American artists to create a work of art using only a single tool. The results are diverse and surprising, from a vessel created via 3-D printer with a Macbook Pro to a wax chair molded with the heat from an artist's bare hands.

"Aesthetically, they're all very different," says Art Alliance chief curator Sarah Archer. "They range from objects that you probably wouldn't think were the result of some bizarre experiment if they appeared in a different exhibition to others that are more mysterious or puzzling."

"The Tool at Hand" was originally curated by Dr. Ethan Lasser for Wisconsin's Chipstone Foundation, but Archer found the show ideal for the Art Alliance. "Like Milwaukee, Philadelphia has an interesting relationship with manufacturing and fabrication," she says. "It has a rich history and a painful episode of decline, but it remains a real epicenter for designers and crafters and artists. So I thought it would be a great fit for Philly and for what we do."

Quoted

"[Philadelphia] has a rich history and a painful episode of decline, but it remains a real epicenter for designers and crafters and artists."

ART ALLIANCE CHIEF CURATOR SARAH ARCHER.

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COMING BACK TO 'COMMUNITY'

As Season 4 premieres tonight, the cast of NBC's beleaguered oddball comedy reflect on the show's dramatic changes ◆ Why flashing castmember Jim Rash's Oscar statuette gets things done

The cast of "Community" was deep into filming the show's fourth season, but they couldn't shake the feeling that something was missing. No, it's not show creator and former show-runner Dan Harmon, who was quite publicly and unhappily removed from his post this past spring after the witty comedy failed for three seasons to take off in the ratings. No, it's the fan interaction that was missing, at least according to star Yvette Nicole Brown.

"We of course feel the loss of Dan, but as far as our day-to-day life of doing a show, it feels the same," she says. "It's usually us making it, and then we have our audience going, 'Yay!' or 'Boo!' And now we kind of course-correct."

NBC first ordered an abbreviated 13-episode fourth season of "Community" and then pushed it off the fall schedule, leaving it in limbo until it was recently announced it would return to audiences in February. But when we visited the set, the cast was already filming the season finale. "I guess you miss the feedback if it were to have started to air, but I feel the episodes are good, so I'm not too worried," says star Joel McHale. "I think it increases the fans' resolve."

NBC UNIVERSAL

▶ Jim Rash and Joel McHale tango on the set of "Community."

The changes have also opened up new opportunities for the cast, particularly for Jim Rash, who plays Dean Pelton. Season 4 finds Rash, who won an Oscar for co-writing last year's "The Descendents," writing an episode himself, an experience that made him "neurotic and freaked out," he says.

But McHale says not to believe the modesty. "Winning an Oscar helps," McHale jokes. "He brought the Oscar with him to set. It would be, 'Jim, I don't really understand this line,' and he would hold up the Oscar and go, 'Is that clear? Good.'"

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

The Jeff and Dean Show

"Community" stars Joel McHale and Jim Rash (an Oscar-winning screenwriter) prove in our interview that they'd make a dynamite comedy duo all on their own, often letting answers disintegrate into mock-insults and bizarre back-and-forths. Here's a sample:

Metro: What would you say is the strangest fan experience you've had?

McHale: I trying to think. There's inappropriate, but weird? There's never ...

Rash: I sent my sperm to one fan. Is that weird?

McHale: You did?

Rash: She asked so nicely for it.

McHale: That's weird. That is weird. Don't do that again.

Rash: What? I did it in private!

McHale: Well, I guess it's legal.

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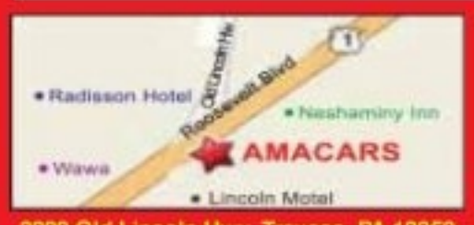

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TV watch list

NBC UNIVERSAL

▶ Joel McHale and Yvette Nicole Brown star in "Community," which comes back tonight.

'Community'

COMEDY. Back after a too-long hiatus, "Community"'s study group-turned-unlikely friends returns for its fourth year at Greendale. Expect great things from one of the most creative comedies on TV. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC**

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. Ann grapples with her own failed relationships as Ben and Leslie's wedding planning propels forward. **8:30 p.m., NBC**

'Project Runway'

REALITY. It's not hard to see why this competitive fashion design series is on its 11th season. Tune in for glitz, drama and sass. **9 p.m., Lifetime**

'Law on the Border'

REALITY. K-9 units in Nogales, Ariz., go up against drug cartels on the Mexican-American border. **6 p.m., Animal Planet**

'Totally Biased With W. Kamau Bell'

COMEDY. Stand-up W. Kamau Bell shares his slanted perspective on the news of the day. **11 p.m., FX**

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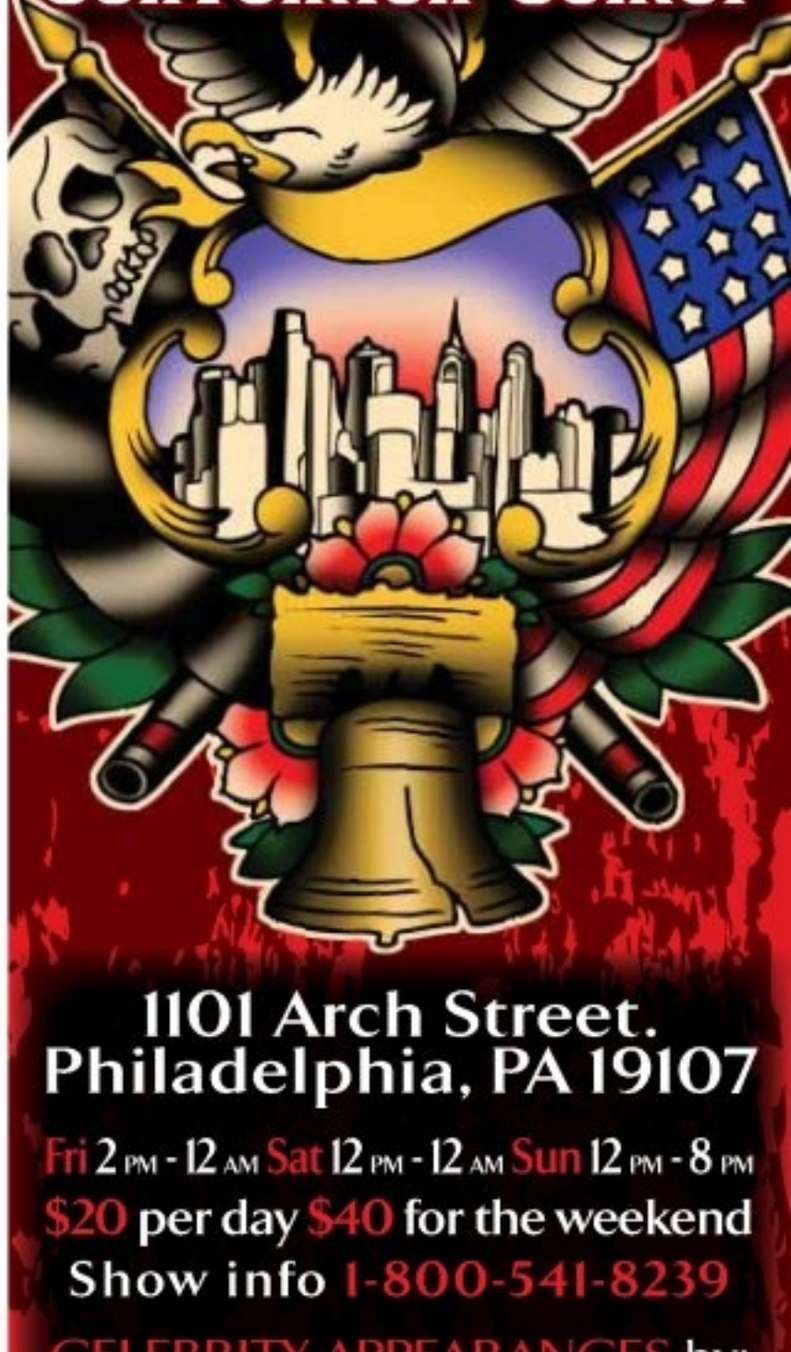

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HARD-WON 'BATTLES'

Boston band Kingsley Flood are ready for the national stage with their second album Even if they weren't quite ready to record it The band talk routines, distances and lyrics

When Kingsley Flood began recording in Maine this summer, Naseem Khuri had only finished writing four songs for the band's sophomore album. After nine days of laying down tracks and as many nights of sharing whiskey, they emerged with the 12 songs that make up "Battles."

Khuri's confidence in the band's collective creativity is apparent in the resultant music and in conversation with the band. Sitting in their Charlestown rehearsal space, Khuri does most of the talking, but the other five members contribute in the same way that they complement his songs.

"We got into a routine of, in the morning, not touching instruments, just listening to demos and taking notes," says the singer, before violin and sax player Jenee Morgan interjects.

"And harassing Naseem to finish lyrics," she adds.

Khuri did finally finish the lyrics, and to great effect. Though the music is alive with the spontaneity of a band falling in love with new material, the words of "Battles" feel carefully chosen, with recurring themes and characters at crossroads of hard-luck pasts and futures of fading faith.

"I know there's a light, but the tunnel is so hard to find," sings Khuri on "Sigh a While," one of the album's more contemplative tracks.

"I went into the lyrics of the whole thing wanting to sort of tell this story of what happens when you do everything right but still fall behind," explains the singer. "It's just an idea I've been really fascinated with, and you see it all around you. I was doing volunteer work at a shelter, and when I'd talk to people, this always seemed to be a resonant theme. ... What choices do you have? Do you sell out? Do you be a jerk and throw your elbows around?"

Luckily for Kingsley Flood, their second album keeps on rewarding upon repeated listens, which could mean that they might not have to sell out or behave like jerks. As for throwing elbows around, they've already accomplished that with this set of songs.

Pat Healy
pat.healy@metro.us

DAVE GREEN

▶ Kingsley Flood are, from left, Naseem Khuri, Chris Barrett, Nick Balkin, Travis Richter, Jenee Morgan and George Hall.

Better by the gig

Khuri lives in Washington, D.C., while the rest of the band is headquartered in Boston.

This means they must never rehearse, right? Wrong.

- **Khuri:** "We go through spurts. I'll come up for a week and then I'll disappear for two weeks."
- **Drummer Travis Richter:** "And then we'll play for six weeks."
- **Bassist Nick Balkin:** "It's kind of like the gigs are the rehearsals."

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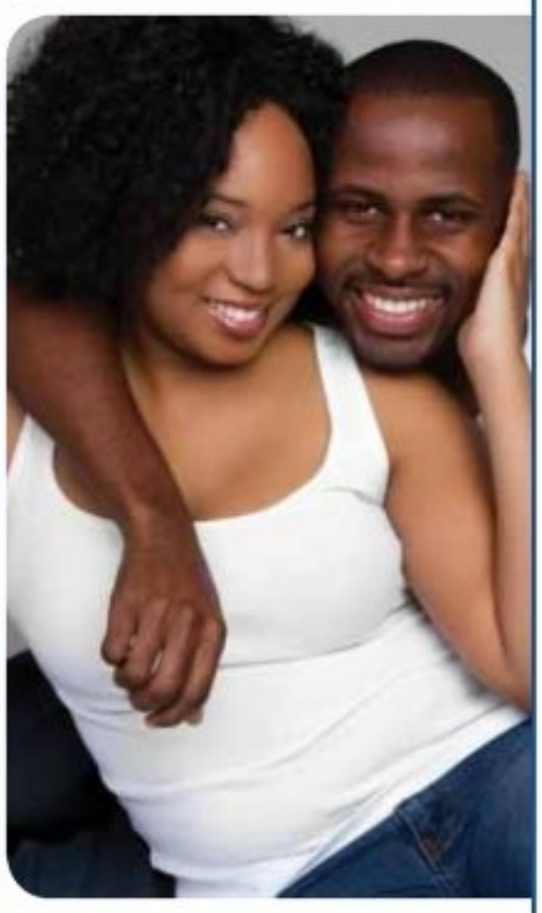

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EDUCATION TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT

mydating

As Valentine's Day approaches, give it up for your buddies

The Hookup

AMBER MADISON
AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

This Valentine's Day, as you're bombarded with all things pink, pre fixe dinners and expectations about what you should or shouldn't do, I'd like to divert your attention to something else: your friends. If Valentine's Day is truly about recognizing love, then we can't neglect this aspect of our lives.

While the idea that friendships are important may seem obvious, I'd like to challenge you to assess where this priority actually falls on your overall to-do list. When setting life goals, we resolve to work hard, "get ahead," stay in shape, find that special someone, keep that special someone or start a family. But having good friendships belong on that list too.

Having more or better friendships probably gets knocked off by things that seem "more important" because we tend not to look at friendships as "adult" priorities. As long as we can check off the "have friends" box to prove we're not losers, that can feel good enough. It may not hit us as a pressing matter if our friends aren't actually that supportive, interesting or fun — or if we've neglected to spend quality time with them, be there for them or stay up to speed on their lives.

But just checking off the box isn't enough. More than simply "having friends," if we want to be truly fulfilled we need to actually be in our friendships. Put simply, here is what that means: Make time for the friends you adore. Stay present when you're with them, and be willing to be vulnerable and express your true feelings. If they piss you off, don't talk crap behind their backs; express your grievances to their faces — I know that's a scary thought, but I promise getting through it will only make your relationships better.

▶ Your pals deserve some props this Valentine's Day.

PIXLAND

Who's your No. 1?

We spend so much energy trying to find "the one," buying books and reading columns about how to attract this person, hold their interest and build a quality relationship. But this relationship isn't the only one that matters. And over this next week, when the hearts and cupids are inescapable, I'd like to encourage you to keep that in mind.

— Amber Madison is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter @ambermadi or online at www.ambermadisononline.com

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fashion week preview

Model fittings and late-night vodkas

A sketch from Fall 2013

We asked Tibi designer Amy Smilovic to keep a diary of her pre-fashion show prep Here's what it takes to put on a runway show at NYFW

Designer Amy Smilovic in her pre-Fashion Week uniform of jeans and sweater.

PHOTOS: MILES DEXON/METRO

5:30 a.m.: "I wake up and immediately get on Style.com, then e-mail Traci [Bui-Amar], my head designer. She's the last person I e-mail at night and the first person I e-mail in the morning. I'm sure both of our husbands are like, 'Cut it out!'"

7 a.m.: "Get the kids ready. Breakfast is a PowerBar — for the kids, too. They're like, 'Mom, can we make something?' I'm like, 'No. Off in the car with a PowerBar.' Then I'm on the train."

8:30 a.m.: "I get into the city and grab my third cup of coffee from the deli: French vanilla mixed with strong Columbian. I can't deal with lines at Starbucks."

8:45 a.m.: "I walk into the office and run into literally about 75 models lined up, ready to start casting. I take a seat on the couch with my team, and the girls start walking. If they pass, then they try on one of the outfits from the show and they walk in that. Probably only one out of every 10 girls makes it to the outfit change. I always feel bad!"

12:30 p.m.: "A box for the collection arrives: We open it and realize the hooded sweatshirts are in cashmere instead of merino wool like they were supposed to. I don't freak out — it's just not worth it. We start placing embroidery things on them and move them into holiday. People talk about trends, but sometimes trends start because the factories sent you the wrong damn thing."

Lunchtime

1 p.m.: "We break for lunch. I make a protein shake with Fage yogurt, spinach, ginger, coconut water, strawberry, banana and pomegranate powder. Leandra Medine [of Manrepeller], who's in to see the collection, comments on how professional my smoothie looks."

3 p.m.: "Traci and I start butting heads. I go for a walk. This is my third one today. She always says that I'm just trying to make something look 'cool' or I'm just trying to make it look 'designer.' And I'm like, 'Really? 'Cause I don't want it to look cool?' But when we fight before a show, that's when there's usually the best outcome."

7 p.m.: "Casting is wrapped up and we start our pricing meeting."

8pm: "We break for dinner. We order from Yo sushi — our favorite. I get my usual, shrimp tempura."

10 p.m.: "Meeting is done. We need a drink. I like straight vodka with lots of ice and lots of olives. We get PR involved and now it's turned into a drinks slash social media brainstorm."

11:30 p.m.: "Home at last. I immediately e-mail Traci. I have a great idea! Then I'm in bed with 'Flight Behavior' by Barbara Kingsolver. Before I sleep, I check Dlisted — it's hilarious."

Tina Chadha
tina.chadha@metro.us

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fashion week preview

THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE JASON WU

We chat about dressing the first lady and how Wu went from admiring supermodels in Vogue as a 9-year-old to hiring them for his ad campaigns

COURTESY OF JASON WU

How has your New Year gone so far? Jason Wu has already created a second inauguration dress, announced plans to launch a makeup line and designed a new ready-to-wear collection. In many ways, the 30-year-old is the unintentional embodiment of the self-help world's most famous book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." He taught himself English through American fashion magazines, started a women's wear company with his own savings during a recession and wound up dressing the first lady. In the run-up to his New York Fashion Week show, we chat about Michelle Obama and how he went from admiring supermodels in Vogue as a Mandarin-speaking 9-year-old to hiring them for his ad campaigns.

There was a rumor circulating on Twitter that your first words in English were Stephanie Seymour, who now stars in your ad campaign. Is that true?

Not quite. but it might as well be. [Laughs] When I first moved to Canada from Taiwan, I didn't speak a lick of English. I grew up speaking Mandarin. So I learned the language by reading my mom's fashion magazines. I was never the best 'A' student in school. I learned by applying what I loved. One day I was talking to my aunt, who also had a lot of fashion magazines, and I pointed out Stephanie Seymour. She was like, 'How do you know who Stephanie is?' Fashion seems to be this impenetrable industry. But for me to be able to get to where I am speaks to how many opportunities there are.

What were you doing in the exact moment when you saw Michelle Obama in her second inauguration gown?

My staff and I were working because I have my show coming up. We were live-streaming it on my computers, and no one wanted to talk about it so as not to jinx it. But when we saw her, we just all let out this scream. When I first did this four years ago, I had four employees. But this year, I had 30 to celebrate with.

In a way, that's a very clear example of the effect she's had on the fashion industry.

People say, "Why is it such a big deal that Michelle Obama wore a green dress the other day?" Usually it's the president talking with the first lady standing by his side. But it says something about the power of fashion that Michelle has been able to silently communicate things. For example, she speaks volumes just through the nationality of the designer she chooses. I don't think there has been any other woman who has used fashion to that effect.

What can you tell us about your upcoming collection?

I've been working on being more confident in what I do and to create real signatures. So there's going to be a lot of signature Wu-ism that people have come to know me for, taken to another level. That's the whole part of brand-building, to drive the point home every time you do anything. Naturally, I feel like I've grown up some.

Kenya Hunt
METRO WORLD NEWS

Three of Jason Wu's habits

- **"I wake up every day at 8 a.m. and am at work at 9.** I pretty much keep the same schedule. I just never know when I'm going to get home. I always joke that I should just install a shower here in my office."
- **"The more I take care of myself, the better my work will be.** I work out, but during show time in winter my workout schedule could be better."
- **"I like to stay calm and organized.** If you were to come backstage to my show before it starts, you'd see a calm environment that contradicts the stereotypical idea of Fashion Week backstage with the models running around with one shoe on and curlers in their hair."

Q&A

You've dressed Michelle Obama for two inaugurations. How did this one differ?

It wasn't something that I expected. The first time, I wasn't as familiar with Mrs. Obama. I felt like I was part of a moment. But this second time, it felt more subtle. It was important for me to keep private about it. I never wanted to exploit the fact that the first lady has been so great to wear me on such an important occasion.

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GETTY IMAGES

fashion week preview

Music looks better with you

London strikes a pose at Chanel.

He parties with Solange Knowles We meet the man behind the music and the brand: Hip-hop artist Theophilus London

"Kids used to want to be rappers. Now they want to be fashion designers, which is cool," says Theophilus London. "It's an education." The New York-based rapper is talking about his legions of fans, whom he refers to as "kids." In terms of the music industry, Theophilus, at 25, is still a youth himself.

In fact, he's probably had more magazine and newspaper profiles (GQ, Esquire, Elle, The New York Times) and fashion collaborations (Cole Haan, Stussy and Surface to Air) than hit songs. And he can name-drop with the best of them. Solange Knowles is "like family, like a sister." He casually mentions seeing mood boards out at Kanye West's house, and in the next breath recollects "smoking hash" with Mark Ronson "while chatting about girlfriends, wives and that kind of s—." Those are some impressive connections considering that London, who was actually born in Trinidad, has only released one album, an EP and a selection of mix tapes.

Usually the lucrative endorsements are rewarded after years of toil. However, London has managed to capitalize on his personal style and cool credibility. "Rappers used to be wearing Air Jordans," he says. "I still wear them. But now, the progressive kids are more educated and wanting Givenchy, Rick Owens or Alexander Wang. And Kanye's clothes — they're dope." His own approach to fashion is studied. "The black suit and hat that I'm wearing on the cover of my first album, 'Timez Are Weird These Days,' was inspired by Leon Ware [the writer behind Marvin Gaye's 'I Want You' record]. I got a lot of work off of the back of that. I know how to dress. I have a look and I don't need a stylist to tell me what to wear," he adds.

Brand endorsements abound — he's answering questions from the set of a Chevrolet commercial — but London approaches it all with a strategy. "I'd never do anything with McDonald's. They're not moral," he says. "I have my own agenda." For now, that includes a new album coming out this summer and collaborations with Azealia Banks and Frank Ocean. "I never do things just for the money. I have to believe in it."

Richard Peckett
METRO WORLD NEWS

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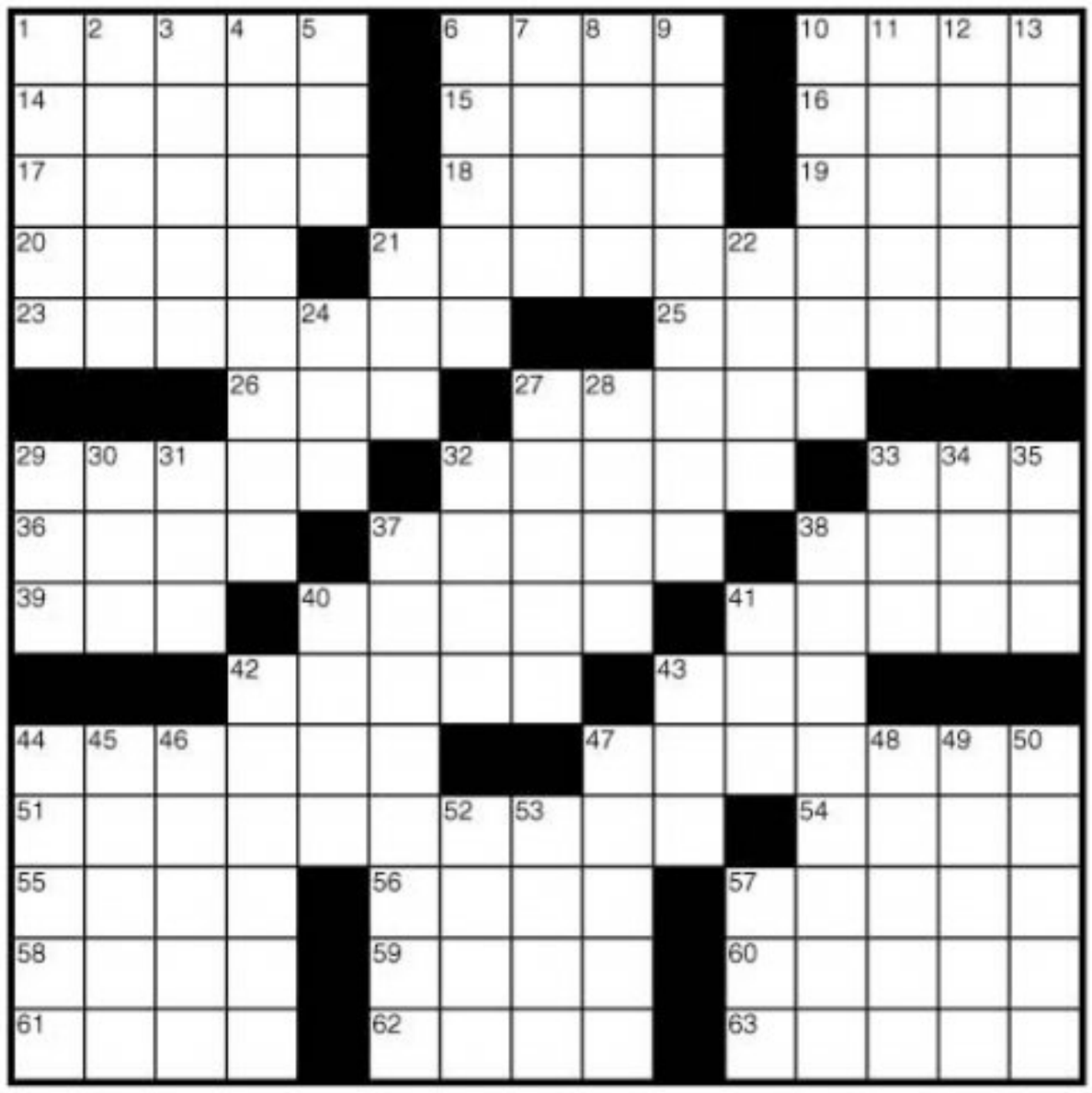

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44 Extent
45 Green-eyed Thai cat
46 Ancient Greek colony
47 Swedish currency
48 Homer opus
49 Sister's girl
50 Errand runner
52 Lower jaw
53 Crazed captain
57 Cum-laude stat

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Even though you're usually outgoing and friendly in all your relationships, today you could be a bit withdrawn. Come out of the shadows; you'll have more fun mixing it up.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** View your expectations realistically but hopefully, because making them realities is within the realm of possibility. Practical goals are definitely achievable.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** The possibility of you being an excellent achiever is better than usual, so take on something that is especially important. You'll do a great job handling it.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** A painful lesson you learned the hard way will be put to the test. You'll not only avoid making that mistake again, you'll know exactly how to handle things this time around.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Financial and commercial involvements are your strong suits. You'll not only recognize a good deal when you see one, you'll know how to make the most of it.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** The most beneficial involvement you could enter would be some kind of partnership. If each party does his or her best, mutual advantages will result.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Something you've been trying to accomplish that hasn't worked out thus far can finally be wrapped up if you take a methodical approach.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't be reluctant to take charge of things when you get the chance. You'll be far better at calling the shots than you would be trying to comply with the directives of another.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It behooves you not to waste any time focusing on frivolous pursuits. Bend your efforts toward addressing your more serious problems, handling the tougher ones first.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Don't beat around the bush when there is a serous issue you need to iron out with another. Get down to basics as quickly as you can, and set your mind upon a resolution.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** The possibility of personal gain looks exceptionally good, even if it won't be earth-shattering. Be alert for different ways you can improve your material circumstances.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Because there is something difficult that has to be taken care of, you'll be the one called upon to get it done. Answer the call of your peers with alacrity and zest.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword

Letters

Science column sparks renewed interest in world

RE: "A WAY TO BE HAPPIER" (METRO, FEB. 4) I love columnist Justin Dowd's Weird Science column and I look forward to reading it. He always writes about something interesting — so interesting, I read his column in the morning and then spend my lunch hour on the Internet looking for more information. Whether it's spindles in a whale's brain or looking up Good Think Inc., it's always something! I want him to know he touches me and inspires me.

BEVERLY HUGHES, VIA E-MAIL

Jesus Christ and the superstars: A trend worth celebrating

RE: "MEET THE HOT, NEW HOLLYWOOD MEET-UP: JESUS" (METRO, FEB. 6) The news that some celebs are going to a Bible study is the best I've heard in a long time! Coming from a 27-year-old Lutheran, which is a rare breed these days, I am thrilled that celebrities are publically showing interest in something other than expensive cars, luxurious island vacations and each other.

While Christians and those of other religions are consistently portrayed on TV, news and movies as hardheaded, bigoted, crazy fundamentalists, it would be so refreshing if those in the public spotlight would embrace the good parts of religion — i.e., loving your neighbor (who is really every human being), and loving someone bigger than yourself.

ANNIE FERRIS, VIA E-MAIL

Leave the Teflon to the non-stick cooking pots

RE: "DON'T SHOOT YOUR MOUTH OFF UNLESS YOU KNOW ALL THE TERMS" (METRO, FEB. 6) An assault weapon is one that is easy for the infantry to carry and can repeatedly kill many people. That kind of weapon didn't exist in the 1700s. Cop-killer bullets are well known. They are Teflon-coated and can penetrate many types of vests.

Human societies govern themselves. The Constitution gives us the right to do that by vote. We have a right to address and balance needs for safety, hunting, self-defense and police work. Letter writer Moe Priell has a right to "determine what I need," but he's not the only one.

We aren't anti-gun. We just want to maintain a little safety.

HARRY THORN, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: HARD

		4	7		3			9
3				6		2	5	
			8	1				
	3				7	8	1	
8				4				5
	4	5	6				2	
				7	6			
	6	7		9				8
9			2		8	4		

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

Broad Street Bullies getting the Zombie treatment onscreen

Legendary rocker researching roles for upcoming Flyers movie ◗ Zombie promises lots of blood, violence ◗ Don't come expecting a 'Slap Shot' comedy

Rob Zombie breezed into town Tuesday to catch the Flyers-Lightning game. The rock legend and horror-film director wanted to witness the fanaticism of Flyer fans for himself in order to put the finishing touches on his script about the 1974 Stanley Cup-winning season.

Zombie hinted that fans wishing for a cameo in the movie should hang out at Rexy's Bar starting in October when local filming begins. Zombie said 2 million fans showed up for the parade when the Flyers won the Stanley Cup. He promised his future film — no release date yet — on the Broad Street Bullies will have plenty of blood and lots of violence.

"The script could be described as 'Boogie Nights' meets 'Rocky,' except that this is a true story," said Zombie. "This is the greatest sport story never told. Even now, everybody knows the Broad Street Bullies."

The movie will not be another hockey comedy like "Slap Shot." Instead, he has written a character-driven story.

"If I made a movie just about the game, it would only appeal to hockey fans," he said. "People who liked 'Rocky' did not necessarily like boxing. They cheered on the underdog."

Zombie, an ardent hockey fan who swears he has a picture of himself at age 5 in a Bruins sweatshirt, wanted to be a goalie because he thought the masks were cool. In a meta moment, the rock star fondly remembered when he worshiped hockey players like music fans now revere him.

"I used to follow them all around. If they were opening a car wash, I was there," said Zombie, who had season tickets to the Los Angeles Kings for six years when he lived in California. While in town, Zombie consulted with some players from that historic 1974 team, namely Bernie Parent, Bob Kelly and Gary Dornhoefer, to flesh out his story.

"They will rat each other out but won't tell me any secrets about themselves," he joked.

Zombie will have a busy spring. His film "Lords of Salem" and new album, "Venomous Rat Regeneration Vendor," will be released in April.

Laura Goldman
sports@metro.us

Home cooking

Following Tuesday's 2-1 win over Tampa, the Flyers stand 3-1-0 at the Wells Fargo Center in this shortened season.

The team is back home tonight when it hosts **the Florida Panthers at 7 p.m. on CSN.** The Flyers are 4-6-0 through 10 games.

Quoted

"The script could be described as 'Boogie Nights' meets 'Rocky,' except that this is a true story. ... This is the greatest sports story never told."

ROB ZOMBIE, ON HIS FILM ABOUT THE 1974 FLYERS

▶ Rob Zombie, center, poses with Flyers legends Bob Kelly and Bernie Parent before Tuesday's game.

GETTY IMAGES

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Rhule looks to future, selects first recruiting class for Owls football

They are just a bunch of names right now. Within a couple of years, Matt Rhule hopes the 23 players who officially chose Temple yesterday on National Signing Day will be the foundation for a solid football program.

"This class will set the tone for two to three years down the road," said Rhule, who stepped into the recruiting process late, after Steve Addazio left for Boston College. "I'm grateful most of the kids who were recruited by Steve stood by us and decided to stay. I feel really confident about the direction of the team."

While no one will confuse the group Rhule managed to haul in with Nick Saban's stash at Alabama — or to NCAA sanctioned Penn State — the Owls have signed a respectable class.

They concentrated on beefing up both their offensive and defensive lines, while also landing one highly regarded running back, Zaire Williams, and quarterback P.J. Walker, who impressed Rhule when he drove Elizabeth (N.J.) High the length of the field for the winning touchdown in the state title game.

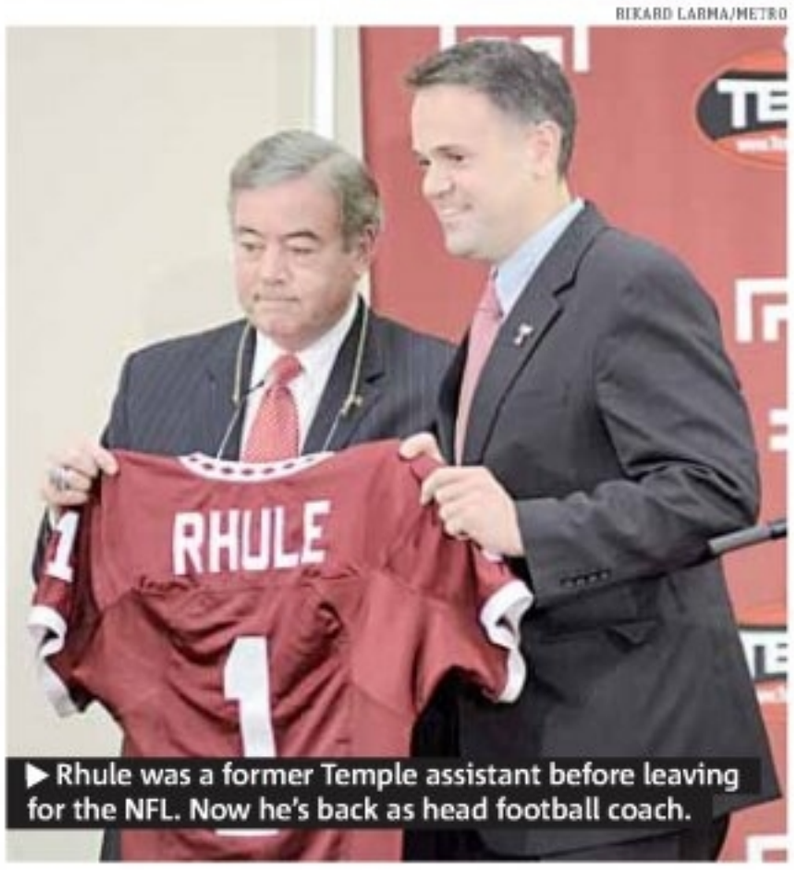
Rhule has no idea how much he can lean on any of them right away.

"I don't know because I don't have a great feel for what's here," said Rhule. "Everyone on the line I knew is gone. The backs [including Super Bowl-winning rookie Bernard Pierce and Matt Brown] are gone.

"We'll continue with some of the guys who are already here and grow with these [new recruits]."

If Rhule has a recruiting philosophy, it's to focus on players within a few hours of campus.

"We have 10 kids from Pennsylvania and 10 from Jersey," he said. "We believe in the footprint of being able to recruit on a tank of gas."


RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Rhule was a former Temple assistant before leaving for the NFL. Now he's back as head football coach.

The new kids

- **Three-star recruits:**
  Matt Barone, OG
  Zaire Williams, RB
  Buddy Brown, LB
- **Two-star recruits:**
  Jim Cooper, K
  P.J. Walker, QB
  Tyler Haddock, DT
  Julian Taylor, TE
  Shane Rafter, OT
  Jihaad Pretlow, RB
  Zach Grant, WR
  Jahad Thomas, RB
  Cory Crawford, WR
  Brian Carter, DT
  Semaj Reed, DE
  Jarred Alwan, LB
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Top hoops adds

1 E'Twaun Moore, G, ORL — The Magic have been ravaged by injuries and figure to deal J.J. Redick at the deadline. Moore is present and future.

2 Nick Young, SG, PHI — Jason Richardson's knee injury is chronic and the sharp-shooting Young is playing for a new contract.

BURYING THE LEAD

What does sex, driving and the first round of fantasy baseball drafts all have in common? Safety is a priority.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mike Trout finished as fantasy's No. 1 player last year despite playing in just 139 games.

Unlike other fantasy sports, we can't win our baseball league with our first-round pick. The rosters are too deep and there are too many impact players. However, we can lose it by whiffing. So as we take a look at the Top 10 picks for 2013, be sure to exercise proper precations:

Reel big fish

Do everything you can to get into the Top 3 this season. As long as he's not suspended, **Ryan Braun** will mash 30 homers, steal 25 bases and hit over .300. **Miguel Cabrera** has never missed more than 12 games in a season and has at least 30 jacks in six straight years. **Mike Trout** may look risky, but not when we examine his pedigree and role on top of the Angels' potent offense.

Meat in middle

A healthy **Matt Kemp** is a good bet to bounce back in the steals department, making him the No. 4 pick. **Albert Pujols** is only 33, let's not write him off yet. **Robinson Cano**, a healthy **Joey Votto** and **Carlos Gonzalez** are difference-makers without many red flags.

Arms race

In head-to-head formats, the ability to "stream" for wins and strikeouts crushes the value of elite starting pitchers. But in roto-style, **Justin Verlander** and **Clayton Kershaw** are both worth late first-round selections. They have no holes.

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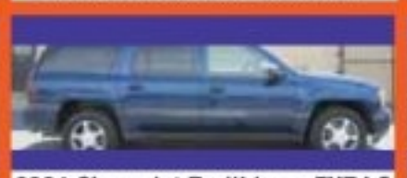
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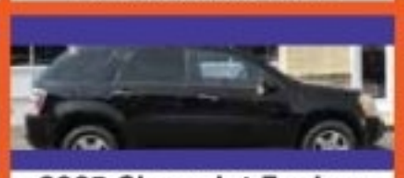
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Keyless Ignition, CD, New Car Trade

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Vick remains with Eagles as first cut deadline passes by

Mike Vick, as speculated Tuesday, will remain on the Eagles' roster — at least for now.

New coach Chip Kelly is still reviewing film on the quarterback and, thanks to a provision in Vick's contract, the Eagles can wait until March 12 to make a final decision without taking a monetary hit.

By not cutting him yesterday, the Eagles will owe Vick $3 million in guaranteed money but if they choose to release him later, then his new team would reportedly pick that $3 million up.

If Vick is still on the roster after March 12, then the Eagles would be forced to pay him the $15.5 million he is owed for the 2013 season.

According to sources, Vick is open to restructuring his deal if he is given assurances he can be the starter in Philadelphia next season. It's a move at least one Eagles player thinks will happen.

"Now that Chip Kelly is our offensive coordinator, I mean our head coach, Michael Vick I think it's a no-brainer to keep him here," Jackson said last Friday in an interview with the NFL Network. "It fits his playing style and what he's done perfect."

Kelly is mulling all his options, including a potential trade with Baltimore to net Dennis Dixon, who played quarterback under Kelly at Oregon. Of course, the Eagles could also dangle Vick as trade bait to potential suitors.

Mike Greger
mgreger@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ New coach Chip Kelly is taking a long look at Mike Vick before he releases him or names a starter.

Moving up

- **Vick,** who topped Forbes list of the 10 most disliked athletes in America one year ago, ranked No. 7 on the magazine's list this year.
- **Lance Armstrong** topped this year's list, with Manti Te'o, Tiger Woods, Jay Cutler, Metta World Peace and Alex Rodriguez rounding out the top six.

Birds cut Bell to trim salary cap, add McCoy

In another expected move, Demetress Bell was released yesterday by the Eagles.

Bell was signed last March as a replacement for Jason Peters, after the starting left tackle tore his Achilles tendon. However, Bell lost the starting job to King Dunlap in training camp and only started in five games. The move trims $9.6 million from the Eagles' salary cap.

To replace his spot on the roster, the Eagles signed defensive end/linebacker Chris McCoy to a three-year contract.

McCoy, 26, played the last two seasons in the Canadian Football League (29 tackles, five sacks). McCoy was originally taken by the Dolphins in the seventh round of the 2010 draft before bouncing around in the NFL.

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